

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Position of Walter Ulbricht in the DDR	DATE DISTR.	15 June 1953	
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BY CABLE

1. Since Walter Ulbricht is closely associated with the repressive aspects of the policy established after the second Party Congress, he will be completely discarded or reduced to co-membership on a "Troika" team, together with Otto Grotewohl and Wilhelm Zaisser.
2. In the "Troika", Grotewohl, who is believed acceptable to the West, would negotiate East-West rapprochement; Ulbricht would line up the Party in support of the new policy; Zaisser would manage the security forces and act as Soviet state security control director.

25X1 Comment: Middle and higher functionaries would at present be susceptible to propaganda which aimed at demoralizing them by pointing out specific instances where "commie" functionaries have been sacrificed, regardless of their own actions, as an expedient in carrying out Soviet foreign policy.

25X1 Comment: The "Troika" solution is not improbable in view of the apparent trend away from one-man rule, as reflected in recent articles attacking the exaggerated cult of individual leadership. There is no conclusive evidence that Ulbricht is in disgrace and the official silence concerning him may serve to bring him in focus with the new Kremlin line.

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